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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/739,148	12/19/2003	Genta Moriyama	000409-078	2535

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EXAMINER

GARRETT, ERIKA P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/739,148

Applicant(s)

MORIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Erika Garrett

Art Unit

3636

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/9/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,9 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claim 3 and 9-10 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 2/9/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moon (6,270,141). Moon discloses the use of a seat back and seat cushion (16); a link mechanism (58) for supporting the seat cushion; and a drive unit (76) for driving the link mechanism and moving the seat cushion between a seating position and a stowed position; wherein when the seat cushion is moved between the seating position and the stowed position, the seat cushion and the seat keep a constant posture by an operation of the link mechanism and the drive unit. In regards to claim 2, further comprising a control unit (control button, columns 1 and 3) for operating the drive unit, wherein the drive unit includes a first drive unit for moving the seat cushion and a second drive unit for moving the seat back, and the first (46) and second drive unit (56) operated in association with each other for simultaneously operating the seat cushion and the

seatback. In regards to claim 4, wherein the first drive unit is attached to one of the cushion side frames forming the seat cushion, and the second drive unit is attached to one of the backside frames forming the seatback, see figure 3. In regards to claim 5, wherein the link mechanism includes a first pair of links (44) rotatably connected to the respective cushion side frames via a first rotational shaft (51) and to a floor vehicle via the second rotational shaft (located above 46) and a second pair of links (50) rotatably connected to the respective cushion side frames via third rotational shaft (52) and to the vehicle floor via a fourth rotational shaft (30). In regards to claim 6, wherein the first pair of links are connected with each other via the first rotational shaft.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Glance (5,597,205). Moon shows the use of all the claimed invention but fails to show the use of a first motor, pinion and first deceleration mechanism. Glance teaches the use of a motor (10), pinion (5,6) and deceleration mechanism. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the seat assembly with a motor, pinion and deceleration mechanism as taught by Glance in order to recline the seat assembly. It would have been an obvious matter

Art Unit: 3636

of design choice to have a second motor and second deceleration mechanism, since applicant has not disclosed that having a second motor and second deceleration mechanism solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with one motor and one deceleration mechanism.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to seat assembly: U.S Pat. No. 6644730, 6234553, 6106046, 6050629, 4285545, 6869138, 6435589, 5195795, 5269581, 5328238, 5383699, 5839773, 5868451, 6106046, 4456297.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erika Garrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3636

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EG
May 2, 2005


Peter M. Cuomo
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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